

# HAWAIIAN HOSPITALITY

Editor Advertiser: I hand you here a description of a tour around the Island of Oahu as told to me by my friend the Hon. Jno. A. Cummins, which I am sure will be of interest to many of your old time subscribers and also will show the malihinis how the Hawaiians entertained.

Yours truly,  
JAS. W. GIRVIN.

On Oct. 10th, 1875, I received a letter from H. M. Queen Emma stating that she wished to see me. As I had opposed her election and she knew I had been very instrumental in securing the election of H. M. Kalakaua, on calling at her town house I was agreeably surprised at the pleasant reception she gave me. However, her husband, the late King Kamehameha IV. and I had been schoolmates and intimate friends and during his reign I had frequently entertained him at Waimanalo and on more than one occasion I had the opportunity of doing some kindnesses for Her Majesty. She made no mention of the past opposition to her but asked me to accompany her on a tour around the Island of Oahu.

I had always honored and respected Her Majesty above all the Princes it had been my fortune to meet and I have known all from the days of Kamehameha III. to the present time, and I resolved to make her tour of the island one of great pleasure and comfort to her as well as one of note in Hawaiian history. I am also a chief, descended on my mother's side from the same line of chiefs in Puna, Hawaii, from which sprang Kamehameha I. and Kalakaua.

Being familiar with the sports of the Hawaiians and somewhat posted in Hawaiian mythology and occult mysteries as well as being an adept at fishing and the preparation of the foods of the people, I knew I could make her tour a pleasant one. At that time I had considerable resources at command, being the konohiki, or lord of Waimanalo, and owner of hundreds of horses and cattle. The Queen asked me to fix a date convenient to me for the beginning of the grand tour and requested me to take charge of all the details of the procession.

I decided that Guy Fawkes' Day, the 5th of November, should be the day of leaving Honolulu. Notices were put in the papers and also posters sent to different parts of the Island fixing dates at which the cavalcade would arrive and I endeavored to meet all those arrangements.

On that day in riding down Nuuanu Avenue from Waimanalo at 6:30 a. m. I saw a great many men, women and children carrying baskets and bundles of leis, some of ilima, some of marigolds, some of lehua blossoms and of ahiihi done up in wrappers of ti-leaf or of banana. Lei lehua ahiihi woven with maile; hala fruit leis done up in solid bundles as poi-ai or hard poi is put up, all being carried to their gracious Queen Emma.

I had breakfast with Her Majesty and her mother, at which were present, Peter Kaeo, Kuniakaea, and other high chiefs at 7 a. m. At this hour the city and surrounding country was covered with mist and a light rain was falling in the valleys, and as the sun shone on them innumerable rainbows and in some instances double rainbows were produced which some pronounced an auspicious commencement of our pageant.

I had brought in some of my best horses and gave Her Majesty an animal of fine pedigree named "Kekoniakaua-nahale" for her sole use and which she rode throughout the journey. He appeared to realize that he was carrying Royalty and although cavorting from side to side and making as much of an exhibition as a good horse can do he was as gentle as any lady would wish.

**KULIOUOU AND MAKAPUU.**  
After breakfast the cavalcade was put in order. It consisted of one hundred and forty women, dressed in the brightest colors the stores of Honolulu afforded and the impression as we swept through the streets of the city was gorgeous. Her Majesty and myself led the procession followed by her mother and other chiefs. The streets of Honolulu were thronged with people to witness the grand sight and it would appear that the whole city and many from the country had turned out to see the departure. We rode down Nuuanu street and along King and up onto Beretania and out towards Kamoliili. At Kulioouou we were entertained at luncheon by Mr. and Mrs. Pico. They had provided all the luxuries to which foreigners are accustomed and also a magnificent luau for the natives. The food was exceedingly plentiful and much more than was necessary, even for so large a number.

We got away from there at 1 p. m. and crossed the Pali at Makapuu. Having descended the precipice the royal party saw a sight such as they had not expected and as will never be seen in Hawaii again. Six mounted knights in red costumes and red visors, carrying torches, presented arms to the Queen. As the procession wended its way onward every three hundred yards a motto in the Hawaiian language presented itself, welcoming Her Majesty to the Koolaus. No two of these mottoes were alike and some were only to the chiefs. These letters were constructed of combustibles and burned until the whole cavalcade had reached "Mauna Rose," a distance of four miles from Makapuu pali. All the arrangements for welcoming the Queen had been made by me or through my orders.

## WAIMANALO.

I had erected two very large lanais, which were covered with cocoa palm leaves, either one of which would have seated 200 guests. At 5:30 p. m. Her Majesty, the chiefs and the whole party sat down to a feast of all the good things of which Hawaiians are so fond. At 8:30 p. m. the luau was over and the hula began. I had made arrangements for illuminations and fireworks,

and rockets were fired from the precipitous mountains at the rear. Blue lights and other pyrotechnics enlightened the heavens and made the night brilliant. Three hundred torches burned all night. Three sets of hula dancers and singers exchanged with each other through the night and daylight found the hula still fresh. This entertainment lasted three whole days and nights. At 8 a. m. two tables sufficient for the accommodation of two hundred guests were spread for breakfast. The preparation of poi, fish of many kinds and served in many forms as dried, lawalued, fried, broiled, etc., had occupied the services of several good stewards, and good stewards among the Hawaiians are adepts at such luau. Amongst the good things Hawaiians relish most is limu, or sea-weed and at this luau a great many kinds were served, to mention the names of which would only be confusing. Naturally foreign delicacies were not neglected and tea, coffee, chocolate, cake, bread and butter, meats of all kinds were served in profusion as called for at each feast, for it was a round of feasts. After breakfast all parties proceeded to amuse themselves in such manner as life in the country afforded. Probably half of the party went to the mountains to gather maile, awauihi, ohawai, palapalai and hala fruit to make leis for the afternoon. The other half remained at home and I prepared some rare fishing sports. It was a great day with the fishermen, who excel in that part of the island. Quantities of fish of many kinds were caught. Her Majesty and most of the party had a sea-bath and witnessed sports on the water before returning to Mauna Rose. Among the fish caught were honu or turtle, ula, ophihi, kala, uhu, palani, hee, lole, ohua, manini, kumu and others. Fisherman Malohe and his large gang of women and men with sweeping nets caught lots of mui, sandfish, akule, and others, the sweepers covering a distance of five miles of beach from Muliwaiole to Puukiloia.

In the meantime I had a gang of men at work preparing the work of opening the dam at Puha River which had been stopped up on purpose for this day's sport. Here Her Majesty and the royal party witnessed some rare sport, namely, the "Puewai of Puha, Waimanalo." It had not been seen by kings or chiefs for years but in ancient times was one of the greatest sources of enjoyment of the people.

An opening of 20 feet or more having been made in the dam, the water rushed out at the rate of 30 knots or more. The bore or surge caused was very high. Only two men and two women dared to play on this water surf, called Pue-wai. One strong man of fine form went across and back riding on the tip end of his malo. This was the grand sport of the day and was the subject of comment by all who witnessed it. Her Majesty presented each of these four with \$100 and four pair of red blankets. Hee-Pue-Wai was a bye-word for several days thereafter.

At four o'clock p. m. the whole party augmented by many from the Koolau district sat down to a beautiful and elaborate dinner. Four chief stewards looked after the welfare of the guests and two chefs de cuisine took charge of the foreign part of the entertainment. Amongst the provisions prepared were ten hogs, one whole bullock cooked in different styles, ducks and turkeys in quantity; also fish of all descriptions served in as many imaginable ways. During the night one table was kept supplied with food and drinkables. On the second night the bonfires on the mountain side were kept up all night.

The second breakfast was not so well attended, many of the guests having indulged too freely in fresh pork.

On the 7th inst. I decided to give an exhibition of my trained horses, and other sports were also introduced at Huananiho. I had then eleven trained horses in training, all of which were thoroughbred, under four jockeys. All who loved horses had a treat in witnessing the races. At four p. m. another huge dinner was spread but still many were missing on account of over-indulgence in the good things.

Every day while the Queen was at Waimanalo large quantities of fish of all description were brought in. After breakfast many felt inclined to sleep or lie around the lanais, but Her Majesty had more endurance and rode and drove about the country. I taught Her Majesty how to use the rifle and she did some excellent shooting, on several occasions smashing a bottle at 140 yards and could cut a twine with a rifle ball at a long distance.

The people from all parts of the Koolau districts kept arriving all the time and bringing in their hookups, or gifts, of food-stuffs. New hula dancers also presented themselves as the reputation for the distribution of prizes spread throughout the island. I had to send much of the eatables away to Judge Pii's house at Kaneohe where the next station of the procession was to be. Notwithstanding the great concourse of people to be entertained my work was made comparatively easy by the genial disposition of the people and the faculty Hawaiians have of caring for themselves. The presence of the Queen forbade any rudeness or exuberance of spirits or boisterous mirth or quarreling amongst this large number of guests.

## KANEOHE.

After another grand breakfast on the eighth the whole party being ready we made a start for Kaneohe by way of Alele. It was a great crowd, all on horseback and all dressed in bright colors with beautiful leis. The cavalcade was led by the six mounted knights in red with their burning torches. Many people stood on the Pali to watch the course of the procession.

At the boundary of Wailea I had an immense bonfire. Here I had erected an immense arch or hoop of fire fifteen feet high through which each member of the party was compelled to ride. The hoop was covered with gunny sacks saturated in kerosene and then covered with ice vine. At high noon Her Majesty and I rode through this hoop of fire followed by the balance of the procession. We thus left the boundary of my land of Waimanalo behind and were in Kailua and had a view of our own party on the plain of Alele.

## WAIKANE.

At Judge Pii's house at Kaneohe great preparations for entertaining on a grand

scale had been made. I had two men in charge of the 300 torches and the pack-horses for the same. Two more cared for the train of eatables and drinkables and four more bringing horses and Concord buggy and double team of black horses. Here the hula kept up all night and no sleep could be had.

After breakfast the next morning the procession took up its way to Waikane to Mr. Kamealoa's place. I drove the Queen behind my black span and her mother followed in her carry-all. Good humor and joviality sat on every feature and with oli and mele the procession made its way to its destination at the next station. Her Majesty appeared very much gratified at the numerous expressions of good will and once remarked to me that if I had caused her to be elected she assuredly would have appointed me one of her ministers. I replied that although my father was an Englishman he believed it was for the best interests of the country that there should be a king at the head of the nation rather than a Queen and that it was preferable that American influence should sway the throne rather than English as we feared it would be if we elected Her Majesty. Also that I had asked her what her wishes were on a former occasion and she had assured me that she did not contemplate being a candidate for election to the throne. Arriving at Kamealoa's place through six magnificent arches of evergreen we found preparations to entertain a thousand people. Her Majesty and party were here assured of a most hearty welcome. Without being tautological I can say that the immensity of leis of hala-fruit and others that was prepared for our adornment was stupendous. To describe the great fish prepared in many styles, both raw, dried and cooked, the hogs, poultry and delicious comestible would take more space than I can afford although not more than the love displayed by her people deserves. Notwithstanding the immense number to be fed the hookups or gifts of food had increased the store of provisions to such an extent that from there I was compelled to send by the schooner "Rob Roy" to Her Majesty's residence in Honolulu nine live hogs, eight bundles of dried mullet, six barrels poi, two dozen fowls, etc., etc. Kamealoa had two large thatch houses and a large school house at his command for sleeping quarters and had erected an immense lanai for the luau. He was a well to do citizen and as generous and hospitable as any whom we met on the grand tour. At night the torches burned and the hula went on and joviality and free intercourse was the rule.

## KAHANA.

After breakfast the next day, all feeling refreshed, the procession took up its journey for Kahana.

Here a Chinese, Apakana and his Hawaiian wife, Mary, a sister to Kamakini, received us all very warmly and had made great preparations for our entertainment. To see two hundred horses tied out in the grounds and their accoutrements on fences and trees, alone was a novelty. This foreigner, Apakana, seemed to vie with the Hawaiian in his endeavor to entertain Her Majesty and suite in form commensurate with her rank. The feast he and his wife spread out was ample for twice the number of our party although our numbers appeared to steadily increase. There was a ple-



COURT CAMOES, A. O. F.

thora of poi, sweet potatoes, rice, hogs, fish, raw and cooked; more than enough for five hundred people for four days. Here we saw some of the largest oios, a most delicious fish, which we had on the grand tour. Crowds of people joined us here, some leading pack-horses loaded with melons, sugar cane, bananas, coconuts, dried fish, etc., etc. Excepting Her Majesty and a few others all went in bathing in the large river there.

## PUNALUU.

After a late breakfast the procession took up its journey to Punaluu. Here were three very large thatch houses. The natives there had a hui or ownership in common and we remained with them two days, but were no burden to them as we carried so large a store of provisions. The hula and speech making was kept going continually and it was the noisiest place we found in the grand tour, even the Chinese adding to the din with their firecrackers. The feasting appeared to be continuous. The provisions multiplied to such an extent that I was compelled to send by a schooner from there to Honolulu with ten bags rice, ten barrels poi, ten bags sweet potatoes, ten hogs and pigs and two dozen fowls.

We left there on Wednesday morning intending to make Kaneohe place at Hauula that night and had forwarded much of our provisions and paraphernalia there. When about to start from Punaluu one of the principal natives, Keaumui, invited the Queen to take a surf-ride in his two and one-half canoe. He was a

very large and fine looking man and had a great local reputation. He had about fifty fathoms of small line and two horsemen, the intention being to pull the canoe just inside the breakers, parallel with the beach for a distance of four miles. The beach terminated at his house where he had prepared a fine luau for the Queen and party. Her Majesty declined to go in the canoe with Keaumui but said she would go with me. We got out of the buggy and I purchased 125 fathoms of line at a Chinese store and one of my boys took the kinks out of it. I had it made fast close to the fore out-rigger of the canoe so that it forced the canoe out about 100 fathoms. I had nothing on but a malo and broad brimmed straw hat. The Queen left her shoes and stockings and got into the canoe and sat down holding firmly by the out-rigger. The beach was crowded with people to witness the great sight of a Queen taking a perilous ride in the surf. I had two good horses at the end of the long rope and gave the canoe a strong shove out to sea and jumped in at the same time. The horses went full speed along the beach. I turned my paddle up and kept the canoe out the full length of the rope, and the speed must have been thirty knots. Then I played with the Queen, dipping the out-rigger into the sea which threw the spray over us causing a rain-hail to those on the beach. The Chinese left their rice fields to see this great surf-riding. In the canoe the Queen only was visible. We had the rushing of the surf and the speed of the horses to pro-

pel us and flew through the water. Her Majesty enjoyed the perilous surf-ride although she was wet through and through when we landed at Keaumui's house. Eight strapping kanakas lifted the canoe and both of us out of the sea and carried us up to the house at Kapaka, Koolauloa. Although Keaumui had his feast ready we had to go up to Kaliuwa waterfall to bathe and get the brine off and change our clothing. The natives carried both the Queen and myself to Kaliuwa. Kekela, the Queen's mother, remained at Kapaka until our return. This waterfall is also one of the historical points on the island of Oahu about which many legends are told. After swimming, high jumping, diving and other sports in which the large crowd joined in the beautiful pool there, refreshing drinks were passed around there amidst great hilarity. The pool is about fifty feet across, very cold and quite deep.

## HAUULA AND LAIEMALOO.

On our return to Keaumui's we enjoyed the great feast he had prepared. He had every Hawaiian luxury that could be desired. We left there quite late but many of our party had gone ahead to Hauula, Mr. Lane's place. We did not arrive until 10 p. m. and the whole party were tired. I stirred them all up and got the hula people to make a noise. Mr. Lane and wife were very much annoyed at us for being so slow in arriving as the luau had been ready some hours before. However they got up a nice breakfast for all the next morning and wet got the procession started for Laie-maloo. Here J. W. Kupua entertained us. He had eight large houses and one large lanai. Here we met the great hula-man, Kapuakalahala and his three daughters. He had the reputation of being the greatest hula player in Hawaii. We remained here two nights and had a grand time. All the residents of the neighborhood flocked to see the royal train and they camped out under the hau and hala trees. There was an abundance of fat hogs and pigs, beef, poultry and fish. There was much steam consumed by the camp-followers so as to keep everything going lively. The different kinds of hula, as punia, alaa, papa, ulu-uli, paia, paumaua, etc. were witnessed as performed by this old time hula master. I had to take this crowd of hula singers to Honolulu with us to keep up the merriment of the party, and sent the old crowd back to their homes in Kaneohe, Mokapu, Kailua and Kaaawa. This new party of hula singers and performers got the whole procession in good humor. Here the Queen bought lots of blankets and calico for the poor people and many shirts called uwehine and gave them to them after breakfast on the second day. We got away for Kahuku where Judge Kaluhi entertained us. This is the land of the hala tree. We had four very large houses, and all the walks around and from house to house were covered with matting called us. Every one took care of his own horse and all were welcome. The viands were most abundant. At night I had all the torches burning which lighted up all Kahuku. Our party by this time had increased to over three hundred and the visitors and friends from the neighborhood was very large. During the midnight luau I sent word around through the people that there should be no one leaving here for Waimea or Waialua who had not a wreath of hala-fruit and that we would leave after breakfast on the morrow. This caused a scramble to the woods in the dark to gather the fruit for the leis. By daybreak every one had a hala lei on and we got for Waialua. Her Majesty, her mother and I drove in carriages but the hundreds were on horseback. In all our traveling we had had no rain but now we struck a heavy shower near Judge Kalanipoo's house at Waimea where we stopped and enjoyed his hospitality. He had more than sufficient preparation for all our 300 and odd people. The weather cleared up and we got off to Waialua. Judge Kalanipoo sent two ox-carts loaded with provisions on ahead which were left at Ukoia-makaha, Waialua at Kaleikini's place. Her Majesty and I led the procession but I had two of my best horsemen as out-riders who maintained discipline. Great preparations had been made by Kaleikini assisted by Mrs. Apakana for entertaining the great party.

## WAIALUA, WAIPIO AND MOANALUA.

We remained at Waialua four days. No sooner had we arrived than the natives, men, women and children and loaded ox-carts from all directions began to arrive with their hookups. I had more provisions than I knew what to do with. Some of these were for myself but I passed them all over to the Queen. Amongst the hookups was a box of white geese, marked on the outside "Keoni Kamaki." Taking it for granted it was for me I gave it to the Queen. It developed afterwards that the

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